

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original): An improved method of laminating sheets of acrylic and/or polyester resins which includes the step of pressing a resinated sheet against a sheet of paper having an easy-release surface, wherein the improvement comprising pressing the resinated sheet against a sheet of paper having at least one outer surface coated with an aqueous polymeric release coating composition produced by reacting in an emulsion polymerization reaction a mixture comprising:
 - a) from about 10.0% to about 60.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of water-dispersible stabilizing polymers and combinations thereof;
 - b) from about 40.0% to about 90.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of vinylic monomers and combinations thereof;
 - c) up to about 20.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of fatty acids having an acid number of at least 100 and combinations thereof;
 - d) up to about 3.0% by total weight of the mixture of a chain transfer agent;
 - e) up to about 20.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of non-ionic surfactants, ionic surfactants, and combinations thereof;
 - f) a catalytic amount of at least one polymerization initiator; and
 - g) the balance of the mixture being water.

2. (original): The method of claim 1 which further comprises pressing the resinated sheet against a sheet of paper having at least one outer surface coated with an aqueous polymeric release coating composition produced by reacting in an emulsion polymerization reaction a mixture comprising:
 - a) from about 15.0% to about 25.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of water-dispersible stabilizing polymers and combinations thereof;
 - b) from about 75.0% to about 85.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of vinylic monomers and combinations thereof;
 - c) up to about 10.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of fatty acids having an acid number of at least 100 and combinations thereof;
 - d) up to about 2.0% by total weight of the mixture of a chain transfer agent;
 - e) up to about 5.0% by total weight of the mixture of a member selected from the group consisting of non-ionic surfactants, ionic surfactants, and combinations thereof;
 - f) a catalytic amount of at least one polymerization initiator; and
 - g) the balance of the mixture being water.

3. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the water-dispersible stabilizing polymer is a member selected from the group consisting of the non-emulsion polymerization reaction product of:
 - a) a member selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, fumaric acid, maleic anhydride, and combinations thereof; and
 - b) a member selected from the group consisting of vinylic monomer and combinations thereof.

4. (original): The method of claim 3 wherein the vinylic monomer employed in the non-emulsion polymerization reaction is a member selected from the group consisting of styrenic monomers, acrylic monomers, methacrylic monomers, ethylenic monomers, and combinations thereof.
5. (original): The method of claim 4 wherein the vinylic monomer employed in the non-emulsion polymerization reaction is a member selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, n-amyl methacrylate, n-hexyl methacrylate, isoamyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, N,N-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, t-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-sulfoethyl methacrylate, trifluoroethyl methacrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, 2-n-butoxyethyl methacrylate, 2-chloroethyl methacrylate, sec-butyl-methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylbutyl methacrylate, cinnamyl methacrylate, crotyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, cyclopentyl methacrylate, 2-ethoxyethyl methacrylate, furfuryl methacrylate, hexafluoroisopropyl methacrylate, methallyl methacrylate, 3-methoxybutyl methacrylate, 2-methoxybutyl methacrylate, 2-nitro-2 methylpropyl methacrylate, n-octylmethacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 2-phenoxyethyl methacrylate, 2-phenylethyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, propargyl methacrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl methacrylate, tetrahydropyranyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-decyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexal acrylate, salts of methacrylic acid, methacrylonitrile, methacrylamide, N-methylmethacrylamide, N-ethylmethacrylamide, N,N-diethylmethacrylamide, N,N-dimethylmethacrylamide, N-phenyl-methacrylamide, methacrolein, salts of acrylic acid, acrylonitrile, acrylamide, methyl alpha-chloroacrylate, methyl 2-cyanoacrylate, N-ethylacrylamide, N,N-diethylacrylamide acrolein, vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride, vinyl pyridine, vinyl pyrrolidone, sodium crotonate, methyl crotonate, crotonic acid, maleic anhydride, and combinations thereof.

6. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the vinylic monomer employed in the emulsion polymerization reaction is a member selected from the group consisting of styrenic monomers, acrylic monomers, methacrylic monomers, ethylenic monomers, and combinations thereof.
7. (currently amended): The method of ~~claim 7~~ claim 6 wherein the vinylic monomer employed in the emulsion polymerization reaction is a member selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-propyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, isopropyl methacrylate, isobutyl methacrylate, n-amyl methacrylate, n-hexyl methacrylate, isoamyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate, 2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, N,N-dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, N,N-diethylaminoethyl methacrylate, t-butylaminoethyl methacrylate, 2-sulfoethyl methacrylate, trifluoroethyl methacrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, benzyl methacrylate, allyl methacrylate, 2-n-butoxyethyl methacrylate, 2-chloroethyl methacrylate, sec-butyl-methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, 2-ethylbutyl methacrylate, cinnamyl methacrylate, crotyl methacrylate, cyclohexyl methacrylate, cyclopentyl methacrylate, 2-ethoxyethyl methacrylate, furfuryl methacrylate, hexafluoroisopropyl methacrylate, methallyl methacrylate, 3-methoxybutyl methacrylate, 2-methoxybutyl methacrylate, 2-nitro-2-methylpropyl methacrylate, n-octylmethacrylate, 2-ethylhexyl methacrylate, 2-phenoxyethyl methacrylate, 2-phenylethyl methacrylate, phenyl methacrylate, propargyl methacrylate, tetrahydrofurfuryl methacrylate, tetrahydropyranyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-propyl acrylate, isopropyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, n-decyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexal acrylate, salts of methacrylic acid, methacrylonitrile, methacrylamide, N-methylmethacrylamide, N-ethylmethacrylamide, N,N-diethylmethacrylamide, N,N-dimethylmethacrylamide, N-phenyl-methacrylamide, methacrolein, salts of acrylic acid, acrylonitrile, acrylamide, methyl alpha-chloroacrylate, methyl 2-cyanoacrylate, N-ethylacrylamide, N,N-diethylacrylamide acrolein, vinyl acetate, vinyl chloride, vinyl pyridine, vinyl pyrrolidone, sodium crotonate, methyl crotonate, crotonic acid, maleic anhydride, and combinations thereof.

8. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the fatty acid is a member selected from the group consisting of fatty acids containing from 12 to 24 carbon atoms and combinations thereof.
9. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the chain transfer agent is a member selected from the group consisting of dodecyl mercaptan, mercaptoacetic acid, mercaptopropionic acid, octyl mercaptan, 2-mercaptoethanol, alkyl mercaptopropionates, and combinations thereof.
10. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the nonionic surfactant is a member selected from the group consisting of ethoxylated alkylphenols, ethoxylated fatty alcohols, ethylene oxide/propylene oxide block copolymers, and combinations thereof.
11. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the anionic surfactant is a member selected from the group consisting of alkyl sulfates, ether sulfates, phosphate esters, sulfonates, and combinations thereof.
12. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the polymerization initiator comprises from about 0.5% to about 5.0% by total weight of the mixture and is a member selected from the group consisting of thermal initiators, redox initiators, and combinations thereof.
13. (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the thermal initiator is a member selected from the group consisting of hydrogen peroxide, t-butyl hydroperoxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, benzoyl peroxide, benzoyl hydroperoxide, 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide, t-butyl peracetate, azobisisobutyronitrile, isopropyl peroxy carbonate, and combinations thereof.
14. (original): The method of claim 12 wherein the redox initiator is a member selected from the group consisting of cumene hydroperoxide-sodium metabisulfite, cumene hydroperoxide-iron (II) sulfate, and combinations thereof.

15. (original): The method of claim 1 which further comprises the addition to the release coating composition of from about 0.1% to about 30.0% by total weight of the release coating composition of a member selected from the group consisting of salts of alginic acid, talc, clay, wax, calcium stearate, zinc stearate, and combinations thereof.
16. (original): The method of claim 15 which further comprises the addition to the release coating composition of from about 0.5% to about 15.0% by total weight of the release coating composition of a member selected from the group consisting of salts of alginic acid, talc, clay, wax, calcium stearate, zinc stearate, and combinations thereof.
17. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the release coating composition is applied to the paper sheet at a coat-weight in the range of about 0.7 to about 3.0 dry pounds of coating composition per 1,000 square ~~feet~~ feet of paper.
18. (currently amended): The method of claim 17 wherein the release coating composition is applied to the paper sheet at a coat-weight in the range of about 1.0 to 2.0 dry pounds of coating composition per 1,000 square ~~feet~~ feet of paper.
19. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the pH of the release coating composition is in the range of about 7.0 to about 11.
20. (original): The method of claim 19 wherein the pH of the release coating composition is in the range of about 8.0 to about 9.5.